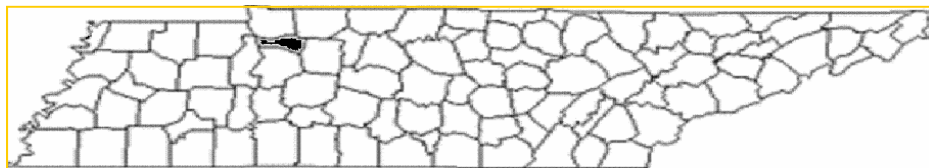


The Status of Women in Houston County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN HOUSTON COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	63.80	81
Women's Annual Earnings	\$19,983	74
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	67.7%	81
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	35.7%	90
Female Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	24.2%	72
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	53.63	61
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	>100%	95
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	15.2%	18
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	70.6%	42
Female High School Dropout Rate	3.6%	12
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	91.5%	52
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	19.3%	77
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	11.0%	73
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	35.9	60

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Houston County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

HOUSTON

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Houston County women earn \$19,983 annually, which is only 67.7% of the average male's wages in the county.
- ◇ Ranking 90th in the state, only 35.7% of Houston County women participate in the labor force.
- ◇ Houston County has a low female unemployment rate: at 2.3%, it places them 2nd among all counties for this indicator and well below the countywide unemployment rate of 3.7%.
- ◇ Of working women in Houston County, 24.2% are employed in managerial or professional occupations. Just 21.7% of all employed persons in the county work in management or professional occupations.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Almost 30 percent of women in the county do not have a high school diploma but almost equal percentages of men and women in the county are high school graduates.
- ◇ 15.2% of women in Houston County have a four-year college degree or better while only 10.3% of all county residents have at least a bachelor's degree, so higher percentages of women than men have bachelor's degrees.
- ◇ Close to 350 women in Houston County do not have any kind of health insurance coverage.
- ◇ 19.3% of women in the county earn incomes below the poverty level.
- ◇ Though 14.3% of families in the county live in poverty, that percentage rises to 33.8% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ Houston ranks last among counties in percentage of businesses that are owned by women, with a negligible percentage of female-owned businesses.
- ◇ Women represent 50.6% of the county population and 51.4% of eligible voters but 5 out of 21 elected county officials are women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

HOUSTON

		Houston County	Rank of Houston County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$19,983	74	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	67.7%	81	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	35.7%	90	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	24.2%	72	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	<100	95	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	15.2%	18	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	70.6%	42	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	3.6%	12	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	91.5%	52	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	19.3%	77	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	11.0%	73	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	35.9	60	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Houston County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties